

Attorney Docket No. 10559-360001
Application No. 09/820,564
Amendment dated May 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2004

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of locally controlling call features comprising:

signalling a request for a call feature from a first telephone over a phone line;

processing the request in a processing element which is separate from and remote from said first telephone, by automatically setting said first telephone which signalled the request as a master controller which can send commands;

B *LA* *Q1* detecting a command from another telephone, other than said master, and setting said second telephone and all remaining phones as a slave[[s]] telephone which receive commands from the master;

detecting a call feature request from a slave telephone;

and

telephone transmitting instructions from determining, in the master phone, whether to grant access to the slave telephone to the slaves, in response to the request, and to command extensions the slave telephone, over the phone line.

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2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transmitting comprises requests for a call feature, at a frequency not used for voice or voice-over-data communications.

B 4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising automatically resetting assignment of master and slave by the phone system after a predetermined time of inactivity.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising paging a slave phone from the master phone.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising conferencing a slave phone with the master phone.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising placing one of the phone lines on hold.

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8. (Currently amended) A method of processing call features comprising:

submitting a request for a call feature from a first phone extension to a local controller which is separate from said first phone;

automatically designating the first phone as a master which can send commands;

receiving a request for a call feature from another telephone;

designating said another telephone as a slave telephone and
~~any remaining phones as slaves~~ which receives commands from the master;

determining in the master whether to grant the call feature to the slave; and

transmitting instructions regarding the call feature[[s]] over the local phone lines at a frequency not used for voice or voice-over-data communications.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising transmitting a call waiting request to the master phone if any slave phone is activated.

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11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising conferencing a slave phone with the master phone in response to the call waiting request.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising placing the master phone on hold.

B 13. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising paging a slave phone from the master phone.

14. (Currently amended) A local phone system comprising:
a controller which receives requests for call features from a plurality of phone extensions, wherein the controller processes the requests and transmits instructions to the phone extensions based on the requests and which automatically designates a ~~last~~ phone [[to]] that makes a request as a master phone when no other phone is already a master phone, that can ~~send~~ grant requests [[to]] made by all other phones, and which other phones are designated as slave phones; and
a first transceiver which provides communications between the controller and the phone extensions over a phone line.

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15. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, further comprising a second transceiver used for voice communications.

16. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 15, wherein the first transceiver operates at a different frequency than the second transceiver.

17. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features include call waiting.

18. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features include conference calling.

19. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features include paging.

20. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features include call holding.

21. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, wherein the call features are accessed through the phone handsets.

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22. (Original) The local phone system of Claim 14, further comprising a control center connected to at least one phone extension, wherein the control center provides a user interface to access the call features.

[Kindly add the following new claims.]

23. (New) The method as in claim 1, wherein said call feature request received from the slave telephone comprises taking the slave telephone off-hook.

24. (New) The method as in claim 23, wherein said call feature request is a request to use an outside line.

25. (New) A method as in claim 8, wherein said request for a call feature comprises taking the slave telephone off-hook.

26. (New) The method as in claim 25, wherein said call feature request is a request to use an outside line.

27. (New) The system as in claim 14, wherein the request includes an action of taking a telephone off-hook.

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28. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein the request includes requesting an outside line.
